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pages are allotted to the years from 1810 to 1916 than to the colonial period. Of the thirty-five chapters which compose this volume fifteen are concerned with the troublous although interesting history of Buenos Aires and the United Provinces of la Plata which ended by the adoption of the Argentine constitution of 1826. Chapter twenty-six carries the story through the battle of Monte Caseros and discusses the resulting downfall of Dictator Juan Manuel de Rosas. The four following chapters mainly deal with the national reorganization which took place during the years from 1852 to 1861. A chapter accorded to the war of certain South-American nations with Paraguay in which Argentina played an important rôle is naturally written from the Argentine viewpoint. The epoch from 1868 to 1916 is summarily disposed of in some fifty pages. In consequence many topics of interest and significance in the recent history of Argentina, such as electoral reform under President Roque Sáenz Peña, the relations between the national government and the provinces, and the attitude of Argentina toward the World War, receive little or no attention. There may, of course, be reasons why the author of a history of Argentina that is intended for use in the schools of his country may wish to avoid describing in detail the portion of his nation's history about which the passions of some of his compatriots still run high. To the reviewer, however, the neglect to allot more space to the half century of Argentine development under the existing constitution is a cause for regret.

In spite of this shortcoming—which the reviewer hopes may be somewhat remedied in the next edition—Levene's history is among the best works that deal with the history of a nation of Hispanic America. May its tribe increase.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON.

Isabel of Castile and the Making of the Spanish Nation, 1451-1504.

By IERNE L. PLUNKETT. [Heroes of the Nations series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1919. Pp. xi, 432. Illustrated.)

The full title of this work indicates, it is to be presumed, a purpose to write a biography not only, but a history of "the making of the Spanish nation". With a writer of such talent in the portrayal of character and the narration of events as the author, the biographical element, however, receives an unequal share of attention to the detriment of the story of the evolution of the Spanish nation. Notwith-

standing this disproportion, emphasis was placed upon the contributions to Spanish nationhood which were consequent effects of the marriage of Isabella and Ferdinand, the formation of that peculiar union of Castile and Aragon, and the institutional and administrative reforms of those rulers. On the other hand, such fundamental factors as sectionalism in Spain and the racial make-up of the people receives little notice.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters, the whole being adorned with some forty-five well chosen illustrations taken in the main from the works of Valentín Carderera y Solano, Lafuente, and Amador de los Rios. One map is provided. The first three chapters are devoted to a description of the political conditions in Castile of the fifteenth century with special reference to the misgovernment, feudal disorders, and civil wars of the reign of Henry IV., and to an analysis of the intrigues and involved politics which related to the marriage of "Isabel" and Ferdinand and their accession to power. There follows, in the fourth, the story of the Portuguese War, fought about the succession in Castile, and that of the final elimination of Isabella's rival, La Beltraneja. With respect to the first 120 pages, it is safe to say that nothing new is presented. In the chapter on "Organization and Reform", the problems and achievements in administrative, judicial, and financial reform are discussed with consummate brevity; and the history of the incorporation into the crown of the masterships of the military orders, the service of the *Santa Hermandad*, and the enforced restitution by the nobles of wrongly appropriated royal properties is written with a due sense of its significance to the process of suppressing seigniorial anarchy. However excellent this chapter may be in clearness and as an achievement in compression, it leaves much to be desired as a study of institutions. The author is happier in the narration of events in the final wars against the Mohammedans and the fall of Granada. The study of the Inquisition (ch. X) and the story of the expulsion of the Jews and the Mudéjares (ch. XI) are particularly vivid in the characterizations of such men as Cardinal Mendoza, Ximénez de Cisneros, Talavera, and Torquemada. The chapter (pp. 285-318) on Columbus—based entirely on Irving, Filson Young, and Thacher—is of little value. In addition there are chapters on "Isabel and her children", which is one of the best; "The Italian Wars", which is of doubtful pertinence; and "Castilian Literature", in which Isabella is shown to have been a deeply interested patroness of educational and cultural activities and institutions.

The author is conscious of the extremes between extravagance of praise and severity of condemnation in the interpretations of Isabella, but this book is neither extravagant nor severe. Isabella is presented as having an "independent and clear-sighted mind"; as an able politician capable of taking care of herself in the midst of court intrigues; as a ruler of firm justice tempered on occasion not so much by mercy as by expediency; as a wife and mother deserving of "unstinted admiration". Her "bigotry" in religion is explained as an "inheritance" shared in common with "the greater part of her race", yet the "relentless cruelty" of her persecutions is viewed with "sick disgust". Isabella rendered great service in restoring the crown as a "symbol of national justice" and in securing domestic peace.

In view of the works of Prescott and Irving, to attempt a book of a semi-popular character was a bold undertaking. The result is a clearly and interestingly written volume which justifies a worthy position in the series in which it appears. Yet it may be questioned if it "will take the place" of Prescott's *History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella*. This work adds little if anything in the way of information; and, although Altamira and Lafuente are included in the brief bibliographical list, little use was made in the main body of the book of any authority which had not been employed by Prescott. The present work most frequently quotes from the writings of Hernando del Pulgar, Jerónimo Zurita, Andrés Bernaldez, Marineo Siculo, and Sabatini, with scattered excerpts from Peter Martyr. Excepting Sabatini, of course, these are writers constantly referred to by Prescott in his heavily documented history.

WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, JR.

A Syllabus of Hispanic-American History. By WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, JR., PH.D., Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. Third edition. Revised and reprinted. (University of North Carolina: 1920. Pp. 44. \$0.50.)

This *Syllabus*, the preface states, "is designed primarily for the use of students of the University of North Carolina as a guide to the introductory study of Hispanic-American history". The aim of the author is to stress economic and institutional history, rather than political, which can best be sacrificed when the limitations of time must receive consideration. The outline consists of an introduction bearing upon the European background and thirteen detailed chapters, the first